



THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON

December 30, 1941

*Prot. in by  
Miss Shannon*

Dear Henry:

I want to express to you and through you to the Secret Service the profound and really inexpressible gratitude of the Library of Congress, and particularly of the Librarian, for the safe conveyance of the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the Magna Charta, the Gutenberg Bible, and other priceless papers from the Library of Congress to a place of greater safety.

I think you can appreciate what it means to bear responsibility for the safety of these documents in this time. The responsibility had weighed heavily upon me for many months, but never as heavily as on the night when the shipment left the Library of Congress. I suppose it is quite literally true that no shipment of a value even remotely approaching the value of this shipment was ever made in this country. Here in one small group of containers was the documentary history of freedom in our world. When I say, therefore, that I am profoundly grateful for the help you gave us, I am speaking with great sincerity.

I should appreciate it if you would express my gratitude in particular to Mr. Neel, Mr. Moriarty, Mr. Shannon and Mr. Andrews who had immediate responsibility for the transport. If it becomes necessary to move these documents again - as it, of course, may - I hope I may again entrust them to care as conscientious, as intelligent, and as scrupulous.

With all good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

*Archibald MacLeish*  
Archibald MacLeish  
The Librarian of Congress

The Honorable  
Henry Morgenthau  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED